

ITEMS OF INTEREST
IN AND ABOUT TOWN

Happenings of the Day in
Various Parts of the
Nation's Capital.

It happened at the corner of Ninth and G streets yesterday afternoon.

And old German was attempting to explain to a friend the absolute certainty of ultimate victory for the Teutonic forces, and, despairing of convincing his hearer, exclaimed at the top of his voice:

"Why, man, don't you understand, the thing is as plain as a, b, c."

"I dare say," said the man who was not German, "but I must be d, e, f."

Rabbi Simon to Talk.
Rabbi Simon will speak at a meeting of the Webster Parent-Teacher Association at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Kutz to Be Speaker.
Commissioner Kutz will speak at a meeting of the Conduit Road Citizens' Association in St. David's Parish Hall tomorrow night.

Dr. Granger to Speak.
The public has been invited to hear the Rev. C. E. Granger, pastor of Gunton Temple Memorial Presbyterian Church, speak at the lobby of the Y. M. C. A. Building at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

"Do the Dead Come Back?"
"Do the Dead Come Back?" Julian Kennedy Smyth, of New York, will try to answer this question in the Church of the New Jerusalem, Sixteenth and Corcoran streets northwest, tonight.

Colored People and War.
At a religious, patriotic meeting in Cosmopolitan Baptist Church tonight the Rev. Simon P. W. Drew will speak on the colored people's part in war between this country and a foreign power.

Girls' Guardian to Talk.
"Parole Work Among Girls" will be discussed by Mrs. Sadie Tignor Henson at a meeting of the Woman Wage-Earners' Association at Columbia Academy, 704 T street northwest, at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Oyster Roast for Elks.
An oyster roast, preceded by installation of officers, will be held by Washington Lodge, No. 15, R. F. O. Elks, Wednesday night. Thursday night a women's novelty dance will be given by the lodge.

Sanitation to Be Topic.
A meeting to urge immediate construction of water and sewerage lines will be held by the Ladies' Co-operative Improvement Society, of Silver Spring, Md., in Gannon's Hall, Thursday night.

Lecture This Afternoon.
"The Magnetic Forces of the Human Body" is the subject of a lecture to be delivered by Dr. W. de Kerker at the home of Mrs. Edward C. Seward, 1821 Sixteenth street northwest, at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon.

Cooks Want More Pay.
A campaign for shorter hours and more money will be launched by the Cooks' Syndicate of Washington at a meeting in Trust Reformers' Hall, Twelfth and U streets northwest, tonight. Colored hotel employees, hotel cooks, and dining car employees will be present.

Address to Bahal Assembly.
The Bahal Assembly, of Washington, will be addressed at Studio Hall, 1219 Connecticut avenue northwest, tonight by Rufus W. Powell, of New York city, who will take as his topic "The Spiritual Service of a Common Language."

Red Cross Branch to Meet.
The Harriet Tubman branch of the District Red Cross will meet in Lincoln Temple, Eleventh and R streets northwest, at 8 o'clock Tuesday night with Miss Mabel T. Boardman and the Rev. Dr. John Vain Schack as speakers.

Cultus Club Has Luncheon.
The Cultus Club, of Washington, held its fourth annual luncheon at the Foxhatten Hotel last night. Speakers were Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Steele. Miss Edna Byer and Miss Darnier, accompanied by Miss Julia Huders, pianist, contributed vocal selections.

Hygiene Course at G. W. U.
Another step in the mobilization of the institution will be taken this week by George Washington University, when a course in elementary hygiene and home care of the sick will be established. Those completing the course will be entitled to Red Cross certificates. Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 2 o'clock in the university hospital.

Trowel Club Hears Music.
The monthly meeting of the Trowel Club of Master Masons of the Department of the Interior, was held last night in the New Ebbitt House. Those who took part in the evening's program were Miss Edna Scott Smith, Glad B. Morehouse and wife, Miss Virginia A. Robinson, and Miss Anna Bel Ruth, accompanist. Patriotic songs featured the evening.

Prohibition Effect Debated.
The recent act of Congress prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors will not be beneficial to the District, was the decision rendered by judges at the National University Law School last night after hearing a debate by

LOCAL MENTION.

Today, Table d'Hôte Dinner, 5 to 8, \$1.25. Music. Harvey's Famous Restaurant, 11th and Pa. Ave.

6% Interest on Savings
First-Trust Real Estate Notes

Best and safest securities; will net you 4 per cent interest; we have them in amounts of \$100 to \$100,000 for a 3-year period. Our first trusts never exceed 90 per cent of the real value of ground and buildings; makers of notes must have strong financial standing also. Proceeds insured against fire; guaranteed title furnished free; we collect and remit interest without charge.

A. C. Moses Co., 510 N. Y. Ave. Main 4021.

The J. Miller Kenyon Debating Society. The decision was 2 to 1 for the negative. Kern and Cook upheld the negative, while Messrs. Klefer and Livingston argued the affirmative. A. A. Dicke presided.

Debate On Federal Phones.
The question whether the Federal Government should own telephone and telegraph systems will be the subject at the annual debate of the Washington College of Law, April 14, at the College Hall, 1317 New York avenue. The affirmative will be argued by Clarence Ellis, Miss Olive Love, John Veviny, and Harry Rohrman. The negative will be presented by Miss Anna Cooke, R. J. Ratteree, W. T. Hammack, and C. H. Killian.

Military Compulsion Debate.
"Resolved, That the United States adopt universal military compulsory service," is the question to be debated by representatives of Washington and Jefferson and Georgetown at Gaston Hall Tuesday evening. Georgetown will be represented by Rufus F. Lusk, Lee Codd, and William J. Cullinan. Georgetown's team has been victorious over teams representing Cornell University, Boston, Pittsburgh University and others.

College Women's Tea.
The college women's regular Monday afternoon tea will be held at the College Women's Club, 1004 F street, tomorrow afternoon, with the members of group 3 acting as hostesses. Group 3 is composed of graduates of Wellesley, Toronto, Sorbonne, and Sturtevant colleges. Mrs. Lyman B. Swormsted is chairman of the group. Following the tea musical selections will be contributed by Mrs. Martin Morrison, and donations of books will be received by all the groups in the club.

CLUB'S PLANS UP TO DATE

Washington Athletic's Building Will Have Excellent Appointments.

As work on the plans for the Washington Athletic Club building at New York avenue and H street progresses, it is revealed that the structure will be one of the most beautiful, modern clubhouses in the country.

The building will be twelve stories high, with an exterior of marble and semi-glazed terra cotta. It is expected that it will be completed within a year.

The club's membership is now nearly 1,000.

In the sub-basement will be the swimming pool and the mechanical plant. In the basement will be the plunge bath, dressing rooms, bowling alley, rifle range, rest rooms and barber shop.

The first floor and first floor mezzanine will be taken up entirely by the main lobby and natorium and access.

The main floor also will contain small reception rooms and offices.

The large dining hall, banquet hall, women's and men's rooms and kitchen will be on the second floor. The main lounge and library will nearly fill the third floor. Gymnasium will occupy the fourth and fifth floors. All upper floors will be sleeping apartments.

The roof will be made into a roof garden, with a landing stage for aeroplanes.

MANY HEAR CAPTAIN BEITH

British Author Tells of Warfare on French Front.

A larger crowd than attended the lecture of Capt. Ian Hay Beith, author and soldier from the trenches, last night at the residence of Mrs. T. T. Gaff, 1020 Twentieth street, is expected to hear a repetition of the lecture tonight at 9 o'clock.

The explanations of "Germany's strategic retreat," Captain Beith said, did not answer the fact that within the past few weeks more than 1,000 square miles of French land has been restored to its owners.

The speaker pointed out that Germany's campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare was to intimidate British merchantmen so they would not take supplies to England. This method of warfare had failed, Captain Beith stated, because 99 per cent of the vessels continued to move on schedule.

"The Germans take the war very seriously," he said. "Our own 'Tommy' laugh in the face of death. One company actually kicked a football, during a charge, right into a German trench. This the Germans thought to have a breach of military etiquette." The fortitude of the Britishers, even under the most trying conditions, was highly commended.

CREDIT MEN TO CONFER.

A meeting of the special committee on service of the credit men's section of the Retail Merchants' Association will be held tomorrow evening. Secretary Charles J. Columbus will report on the service given in Washington as compared with that in other cities.

The committee on service consists of David Sanger, chairman; C. M. Keefe, Leo Baum, A. V. Hoffman, and Mr. Columbus.

WEBSTER SCHOOL MEETING.

A meeting of the Webster Parent-Teacher Association will be held at the Webster School Tuesday at 3 o'clock. Rabbi Simon and Mrs. J. Lester Brooks will speak, and Mrs. Gilbert A. Clark will sing.

Display of Easter Flowers.

Beautiful Home-grown Flowers and Blooming Plants. Order early. Guide, 1214 F-Advt.

SHOREHAM HOTEL
H NORTHWEST AT FIFTEENTH
Washington

European Plan. Fireproof.

Washington's Most Exclusive Hotel

Noted for its cuisine and perfection of individual service

LOANS HORNING
Rising Va. (south end of Highway Bridge). Free automobiles from 8th and D sts. sw.

For "A Strongly Defensive Policy"

Primitive and Human Elements in Present Crisis Reviewed by a Pro-Ally, Born in France, Who Warns America Against Indefinitely Prolonging the Chaos of World-War

To the Editor of The Evening Post:

Sir: I am not pro-German, nor for peace at any price. I was born in France. I am of French descent, and strongly pro-Ally in all my sympathies. I believe that the German government has been the main aggressor. I believe it prepared for and forced the war; that it has carried it on with stupid brutality. Above all, I see in German militarism a blight upon civilization.

I have tried to look at this peace and war question from every angle. I have been puzzled and doubtful at all times of my own mental processes in regard to it. Frankly, I have come to the end of my faith in the whole legalistic and nationalistic aspect of the question. I feel that we cannot square our national rights with the universal wrongs that have arisen out of the war. I am only sure and clear about the general primitive and human elements of the crisis. And these, as it seems to me, have not been stated widely.

The war has grown into a question larger than this or any nation's individual rights or local considerations of honor. The war is different from anything that, so far as we know, has ever happened before. Largely on account of the inventions of civilization, the war has developed into a new and immeasurable disaster to humanity—a sweeping, widespread epidemic, for which there is no precedent in history. It is so terrible already, so sinister in its possibilities and so virulent in its spread over the earth that it is unparalleled, a law unto itself. Man-made laws, rules, traditions and rights fall before the common need of humanity to bring this cataclysm to a close. If we are to have democracy, brotherhood, Christianity or any civilization worth living in, some nation, for the sake of these things and in the name of a stricken world, must be human enough, great enough, brave enough, and humble enough to say "This thing shall spread no farther, whatever may be the cost to us."

No personal consideration, no prating about international rights and laws, no talk about commercial losses or gains is tolerable at this time of the world's appalling necessity. So far has the conflagration burned; here it must cease. The nation that now adds to war for any purpose short of defense against actual invasion is not a brave nation. No honor that at this time loves itself better than humanity is true honor. No law that stands between us and the higher law of helping humanity in distress is worth the paper it is written on.

Today the war is not being fought for definite aims. The belligerents have not set definite goals, at which they will stop fighting. The dying multitudes on the fields of battle and the millions of wretched human beings waiting in sorrow at home do not know what they are fighting and waiting for. They only know that they have been told to do something for patriotism and liberty, and that fear and obedience to authority keeps them at their task. The war may have begun with definite aims, but it has gone past all that now. The nations are fighting with the primitive instincts of destruction and aggression, though using every civilized invention and the organization of twentieth-century society, as well as the primitive weapons of starvation—starvation of women and children—in order to kill or cripple the enemy. In fact, nothing but the starvation of one of the belligerent groups any longer promises peace between them, in the embittered, pain-twisted madness of war. Unless some great Power not a party to the strife can remain beyond the reach of this madness, there is little hope for peace, except the peace of exhaustion and death.

According to best available information, the actual losses of the war are almost double those reported by the belligerent governments themselves. Up to January 1 they were over 21,000,000 in killed, wounded and missing. Good opinion is that losses among non-combatants due to violence, disease, increased infant mortality, hunger and other incidentals of war are equal to those among the soldiers. This would bring the total up to more than forty-two million. In addition to this, the Commission for Relief in Belgium reports three and a half million people in Belgium and two million in France wholly or partially destitute. It reports 50 per cent of the working population of Belgium unemployed, a million and a half under-nourished children in Belgium, and 100 per cent more attendance in tuberculosis clinics than before the war. Smallpox is raging in Germany, while the French Academy of Medicine reports that, since the mobilization began, syphilis has increased in France by 50 per cent. This is the war that we ourselves propose to enter. And let us face the fact, for sooner or later we will have to shoulder the responsibility that, if we do enter the war, we shall in all probability prolong it indefinitely.

Our entrance into the war will prolong the war; for it will make Germany desperate, close the fist of the militarist government upon the people, and hold down the democratic impulses that stand for peace. Our entrance into the war will prolong the war, because it will solidify the British Government's determination not to make peace until a decisive victory is won, and to offer no terms in the meantime that will not impel Germany to fight on to the bitter end.

Our provocations are great. Heaven knows we have every legal excuse for going to war, but if we stay out of the war, and maintain our policy of armed neutrality, as laid down by Washington and Adams 119 years ago, and by President Wilson in his address to Congress on February 26, it is more than probable that the war will end. It is more than probable that we can bring about a conference between the Central Powers and the Allies before the time set for the great spring hostilities, which, if unchecked, will usher in a more deadly phase of the conflict than has yet occurred.

Let the newspapers go on with their orgy of hysteria and hate. Let

them preach and practice Prussianism, while they cry out against it. Let them shout loyalty to the Government in one issue and knife its Chief Executive in the back in the next. It is their right to do this in a free country. Let them define patriotism in terms of the jungle law. Let them denounce as a coward every man who stands for purely defensive measures against Germany and who sees a higher patriotism than that of avenging the wrongs, brutal and barbarous as they are, done to us by a nation whose people are starving, whose armies and navies are surrounded, and whose Government is controlled by a psychology of militarism and fear. Let the newspapers say what they want. Let them call for the suppression of free opinion. Let them demand the degradation of the American citizen into an American subject. Let them exalt our Roots, Roosevelts and O'Ryan into apostles of democracy. Let them out-Prussia Prussia. It does not alter the situation—the situation that every citizen with love and pride for his country must now face.

America has a duty higher than that of maintaining its national rights and privileges. It is not a duty of self-conscious example or of hypocritical moral aloofness—God knows our commercial profits in the war have taken from us all right to preach—but one of humble and practical service, a duty to stay out of the war and to bring the contestants to some understanding, impossible as this may now seem. For it is clear that, under present conditions, they cannot come to an understanding by themselves. If left alone, they must go on destroying each other, and the destruction in the coming year will be fraught with more horror, not only to the combatants, but to those at home, than at any time before. The most appalling realities of the war have hardly yet begun. If the war goes on another year, think of what it will mean to the starving women and children in the starving nations, to Poland, Belgium, to the prisoners in the camps of Germany, Austria and Russia—yes, and in France and England, and to the participants in the great panoramas of destruction that will extend along the eastern and western fronts.

Much has happened since the President last tried to bring the belligerents together. In Germany, hunger has spread, the U-boat blockade has fallen short of success, and the Russian revolution has shaken the confidence of the Hohenzollern dynasty. In England, on the other hand, the finance question has reached an acute crisis; the U-boat blockade carries grave future possibilities; hopes of victory built upon a spring drive have receded, and confidence in the new coalition Cabinet is ebbing fast. Both groups of belligerents look forward with intense dismay to the gigantic slaughter, suffering and money loss, which the coming months have in store if the war goes on. This is America's supreme opportunity to bring about a conference and stop the war. If we go to war, we sacrifice this opportunity and with it Europe's hope of peace.

We are not at war. We need not be at war. For the sake of things greater than our national honor, things that America cannot ignore and yet remain true to itself, we must not be at war. To the simple and obvious duty of doing our part in halting the most awful incident of the world's history—of coming to the aid of and emancipating the millions of men and women, whom their own Governments have plunged into fathomless disaster and enslaved, perhaps had to enslave, for the purpose of destroying each other—this country should now dedicate itself. It is such a call to every man with real patriotism, with real courage, and with real humanity as at no time in our history has ever been sounded.

Today, as in every similar crisis, the calm opinion of the nation is unfortunately drowned by the voices of war-shouters. The center of the stage is held by fear mongers, accredited servants of privilege, and well meaning, but unmeaning, enthusiasts. They are playing upon the fears of the public. They are trying to persuade our people that the country is in imminent danger; they say democracy all over the world is menaced by German militarism, and that the only way to save democracy is for us to join the Allies in crushing this militarism.

With all due respect to the many sincere men who have joined themselves to the dollar patriots and undesirable citizens, who see in the war scare a unique chance to clothe themselves in the habiliments of patriotism without undue expense, the idea that militarism in the one hundred and twenty million people of the Central Powers can be destroyed by a decisive victory is childish. Militarism is something deeper than the possession of armies and navies. It is a psychological condition that can only be destroyed from within by the democratic impulses of the people themselves. France "destroyed" German militarism from the outside in 1806; that was not the end, but the beginning of real German militarism. Germany "destroyed" French militarism from the outside in 1871; and this was only the beginning of modern French militarism. Fight this war out to a finish—to a "dictated peace;" leave the Central Powers with an undying grudge against their conquerors, and you have sown the seed for a period of intrigue, international alliance, and militarism, that will bear fruit in our children's time, in another disaster perhaps more terrible than the present war.

President Wilson was right when he said that the secure organization of the world depended upon "peace without victory." He was right when he asked the country to pursue a policy of armed neutrality, and not war against Germany. He has been right in choosing the higher bravery of patience and the harder paths of peace. Let us be thankful for what Woodrow Wilson has done. Let us thank God that he has stood out so long against pressure, such as few men in public life have strength or courage to resist.

But now the time has come when the people themselves must choose. The decision is clear-cut. The parting of the ways has come. We can go into the European war, and in doing so defend our own rights against aggression, and at the same time be defended by the precedents of history. On the other hand, we will be equally justified by historical precedents if we stay out of the war and adopt a strongly defensive policy of armed neutrality against Germany. But I say that this is a time when precedents, national considerations and international laws must fall before a greater law. I say that this is a time when there is only one decision that America can afford to make. For our own sakes, for the sake of our children, for the sake of the war-weary peoples of the world, and more than all, for the sake of the great immortal spirit of humanity that still rises above the battlefields, we must do our part as citizens of the world. We must not surrender to the old gods.

New York, March 24. AMOS PINCHOT.